IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Hu et al.

Serial No.:

09/854,844

Filed:

05/14/2001

Group Art Unit:

1652

APR 0 3 2003

Examiner:

D. Ramirez

For:

Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides

Encoding the Same

Atty Docket No.: LEX-0176-USA

NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE PRIMARY EXAMINER TO THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Box AF

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Applicants hereby appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the decision of the Primary Examiner mailed December 2, 2002 ("Final Action"), finally rejecting claims 1-8.

The fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(b) for filing this Notice of Appeal is \$160.00, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct this fee from Applicants' Representatives' Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of one month to and including April 2, 2003, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The Notice is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fees for filing the Notice of Appeal and the extension fee are due in connection with this communication. However, should any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason related to this communication, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Applicants' Representatives' Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

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Respectfully submitted,

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160.00 CH

March 31, 2003

Date

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE